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LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to inform you that in the morning of 14 May 1999, NATO planes committed a heinous crime hitting the refugee centre at Koriste near Suva Reka and Prizren in which refugees on their way back home from Albania were accommodated. According to the initial data, 79 people, mostly women, children and the elderly, were killed and about 58 people were wounded by cluster bombs.

The massacre at Koriste comes in the wake of the recent bombing with cluster bombs of civilian targets in Nis and the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, the telling examples of the genocidal character of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The massacre at Koriste is an attempt to prevent the refugees that left their homes in the wake of the NATO bombing and as a result of Kosovo Liberation Army intimidation from returning home following the call of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia. It is reminiscent of the NATO raid against the refugee convoy on the Djakovica-Prizren road on 14 April 1999 and dozens of refugee centres in which a large number of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia were killed.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects the Security Council to condemn this crime against civilians, as well as the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which represents not only a massive violation of human rights, but, by the proportion and size of the destruction of civilian targets, a most direct threat to international peace and stability.

It is my sincere hope that the Security Council will take all necessary measures to fulfil its bounden duty of safeguarding international peace and security based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to stop the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a founding member of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.